



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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October 2, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe *Wendy L. Watanabe*  
Acting Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – T & T HOME FOR  
BOYS GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of T & T Home for Boys Group Home (Group Home or Agency), which contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

The Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

T & T Home for Boys Group Home is located in the Second District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement except for a few deficient areas.

The Group Home needs to maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include input from all members of the treatment team and encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

WLW:MMO:DC:CC:bg

### **Attachments**

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Howard Douglas, Jr., Board President, T & T Home for Boys Group Home  
Darlene Theragood, Executive Director, T & T Home for Boys Group Home  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**T & T Home for Boys Group Home  
Carson, California 90746  
License Number: 191600883  
Rate Classification Level: 9**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

T & T Home for Boys Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, all members of the treatment team are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. In addition, the NSPs are not comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. T & T Home for Boys management:**

- a. Include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- b. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.**

### **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. Personal Rights****Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. However, children are not encouraged or assisted in creating or maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendation**

- 2. T & T Home for Boys management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

## T & T Home for Boys

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Carson, Ca 90746  
310-635-2469

Department of Auditor-Controller  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple Street., Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Attention: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor

T & T Home for Boys have address and implemented recommendations that were given.

### **1. Recommendations:**

#### **a. Include the treatment team in the development and implementation of NSPs**

##### **IMPLEMENTED**

- The Administrator discussed with the Facility Social Worker the responsibility of this position in facilitating the treatment team in the development and implementation of comprehensive NSPs, for the residents.
- T & T's Facility Social Worker will now facilitate all members of the treatment team to ensure that each member is involved with the development and implementation of the NSPs. The treatment team will consist of (but not limited to) the child, the child's case carrying Social Worker, facility managers, childcare workers and any other adult important in the child's success.
- The Administrator is responsible for ensuring that execution of his procedure is followed for every need NSP and that this corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended.

#### **b. Develop comprehensive Needs and Service Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short and long term goals.**

##### **IMPLEMENTED**

- The Administrator discussed with the Facility Social Worker the responsibility of this position in facilitating the treatment team in the development and implementation of comprehensive NSPs, for the residents that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely.
- T & T's Social Worker will now record and ensure that input from the treatment team and the child is included in the development and implementation of all needs and service plans. T & T's Social Worker is responsible to ascertain that the NSPs are comprehensive, realistic, specific, and measurable and the resident can obtain success in a timely manner. Additionally, the Facility Social Worker will include short and long term goals that are also achievable in a timely manner.

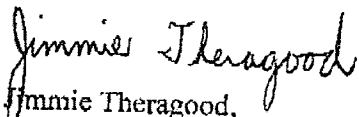
- The Administrator is responsible for ensuring that execution of this procedure is followed for every NSP and that this corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended.

**2: T & T Home for Boys management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/ life books**

**IMPLEMENTED**

- The Administrator discussed with the Facility manager the responsibility of this position in ensuring that the staff encourage and assist the residents in creating and maintaining photo albums and/or life books.
- T & T has now created a specific group to ensure that the minors maintain life books; all childcare workers have been instructed on how to encourage the residents and, assisting them on creating and maintaining a life book or photo album for themselves.
- The Facility Manager is responsible for ensuring that execution of this procedure is followed and the Administrator is responsible to make sure and that this corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended.

Respectfully,

  
Jimmie Theragood,  
Administrator